

# TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES [Intelligent Christianity—Proverbs 14]

## THIS WEEK

In an era of relativism, teenagers struggle to find truth in their lives. Some of your kids may be dealing with some serious doubts and questioning their lives and beliefs. And they're flooded with different answers from different sources. How can they know and find the truth? This TalkSheet will encourage kids to become thinkers, to check facts, and to seek truth.

## OPENER

You may want to start off this discussion by—

- Asking your kids to bring in a piece of information that they found on the TV, Internet, or in a magazine or newspaper. Challenge them to bring in a fact or two that no one else in the group would know. It can either be a true or false piece of information. Let the group share their bits of info and let the rest of the group vote and debate to decide which one is true or false. Was it easy to tell which ones were true or false? Why or why not? Which pieces of information surprised your kids?
- Play a version of the previous game, but with information from your kids' own lives or experiences. For this game (known as Two Truths and a Lie), ask each person in the group to think of two truths about themselves—and one lie. Then let the group members share the three facts about themselves (not giving away which one is the lie). See if the rest of the group can see which one is the false one. How hard was it to figure out the lies? Why or why not? Did they make their assumptions based on the person—or what they knew about the person?
- Or if you don't have time to play either of these, bring in some information yourself. You can easily find information anywhere on the Internet. Check out some of the news Web pages, such as USA Today ([www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)), Newsweek ([www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)), People ([www.people.com](http://www.people.com))—or some tabloids (for the false facts?) the National Enquirer ([www.nationalenquirer.com](http://www.nationalenquirer.com)), or Star Magazine ([www.starmagazine.com](http://www.starmagazine.com)).

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. What percentage of truth did your kids give each of these statements? Take a poll of your group to get their responses. Which students doubt most of the statements? Which believe most?
2. What truths do your kids consider to be permanent and infallible? Ask them for examples of why they gave these choices? How can they decide which truths are relative and which aren't? How does being a Christian influence the truth in a person's life?
3. Where would your kids turn if they didn't know God? What about their friends or family members

who don't know God? Talk about these with your kids and ask them why people look to some of these sources for the truth. What makes them dependable or trustworthy?

4. How did your kids interpret these verses? Discuss what it means to be simple and what it means to be prudent in God's economy. How do simple—and prudent people—determine the truth? Which do your kids perceive themselves to be—simple or prudent?
5. It's not uncommon for people to struggle with their beliefs—and question Christianity. How would they respond to Kayla? Is it okay to question or doubt God or their faith? Why or why not? How does questioning or doubting weaken or strengthen one's faith? Take some time to answer questions that your kids may have about their faith or any doubts that they're dealing with.

## THE CLOSE

Remind your kids that their minds are gifts from God. Wise people investigate truths and information that come their way—and the ultimate truth can stand up to investigation. How does faith influence or affect one's perception of the truth? Point out that believing in God and loving him means trusting him alone. Finally, let your students know that being prudent (rather than simple) involves mental and spiritual effort. How easy or difficult is it for your kids to be prudent? What challenges them in this area? You may want to spend some time talking through some doubts or issues that your kids may have.

## MORE

- Many biblical characters questioned the truth about God. You may want to have your kids check out the following verses (or look for more) and discuss them with the group—Genesis 3:1-6; Genesis 17:15-22; Genesis 18:10-15; Judges 6:14-23; Luke 1:5-20; John 18:33-39; and John 20:24-29. What was the character doubting or questioning? Did this relate to their faith in God and how? What were the consequences (either good or bad) of their doubting? What does this say to your kids about doubts and God's will?
- You may want to talk more about how to address the situation in item 5. How would your kids explain the truths of the Bible? Which truths are hard to explain or prove? What aspects of Christianity do your kids struggle with? You may want to have a Q&A session to discuss these with your group—and encourage them to find Bible verses to back up their answers or ideas.